

WASATCH COUNTY

There were no registered dentists in the very early days of Heber or Provo Valley. Bishop John Watkins and Hiram North of Midway, and William Wright of Charleston, pulled aching or decayed teeth with forceps or pincers. Many of the pioneers of the valley went to them for help and the extraction was done as a neighborly act of kindness. Emily Coleman tells of her little brother suffering with an aching tooth. She was instructed to take the little boy to the home of Hiram North and have his tooth pulled.

Elisha Jones, Sr., came to Heber from Provo. He was the first pioneer dentist of Heber. The instrument he used was a small pair of pincers. In 1864 he established the trade of blacksmithing. His daughter, Eliza Moulton, now eighty-four years of age, says that her father took the files he was unable to use for blacksmithing work, filed them and made knives of them.

Early licensed dentists were Dr. William Sessions, Dr. Westphal, Dr. Brigham Witt, Dr. Charles Wherritt, Dr. Sabin and Dr. Harold R. Read. Dr. Brigham Witt was one of Provo Valley's native pioneers. He went away to learn dentistry and returned to make his home in

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Heber where he practiced dentistry for many years. Many of the older people of the valley are still wearing the dentures made by him. Dr. Read practiced in that area for many years. He passed away May 16, 1944.

The first Drug Store was opened in Heber in 1889 under the management of Richard Bridge, Sr. When he and his family moved to Salt Lake county, drugs were sold in the same building by Turner brothers. William Flider came to Heber and opened a drugstore which he operated for a few years.—Evel D. Johnson

H Edward Hoffman Rhoad Jr

* 27 Apr 1878 Coalville, Summit, W Va

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W Gertrude DUNCAN

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T John Duncan

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Ref. 1. FGS from FHL Archives 4/2 Jan 1989

Bapt 18 June 1886
End 6 Dec 1899



John Duncan

FLYING

The first airplane to land in Wasatch County came in 1921 when Lt. Russell L. Maughan flew an Army DeHaviland plane into Heber to pay a call on his mother-in-law, Mrs. David Fisher.

Lt. Maughan later won international fame when, on June 21, 1925, he left Mitchell Field in New York at dawn and flew non-stop to San Francisco by dusk.

When he came to Heber he landed on the James W. Clyde farm at Sixth South and Main. It was the first time many of the residents had seen an airplane. Schools were dismissed the following day so that students could witness the "take-off."

In later years a modern up-to-date airport was built south of Heber for private as well as emergency aircraft use.

HOTELS AND MOTELS

Travel in and out of Heber by whatever means brought the need for hotel service and several fine hotels were established. U. S. Highway 40 through the city has brought many tourists to the area in recent years and the hotel and motel business has been consistently good.

The first hotel in Heber known as the McMullin House was built by Mr. and Mrs. Henry McMullin Sr. on the west side of Main Street at the corner of First North. Initially they had their own sleeping quarters a kitchen and two rooms upstairs for rent. Shortly thereafter about 1875, they built a brick building on the same location that had seven rooms for



The Duncan House, popular Heber hotel, is shown here in this 1918 photograph.

Edward Huffman
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rent. Many theatre troupes stayed at the McMullin House when they played Heber. Mrs. McMullin was a good housekeeper, and many young girls of the community who worked for her were taught the principles of good homemaking and cooking in addition to earning their salary. The Ashton Hardware store now stands where the old McMullin House was located.



The Heber City business district, as it appeared in 1916 is shown in this photograph looking south from First North Street. Businesses shown are the Heber Confectionary and Bakery, barber shop, pool hall, Buell's general merchandise store, Mark Jeff's store, Simon Epperson's Livery Stable and Turner's Store.

Heber's main hotel for many years, the Duncan House, was built in the Spring and Summer of 1885 and opened for business in August of that year. It was owned by John Duncan and his wife, with Mrs. Duncan serving as general manager.

At the time it opened, the Duncan House boasted eight bedrooms, office, sitting room, dining room and kitchen. A few years later the hotel was expanded to a rock building just south of the hotel, a 15 by 36 foot kitchen was added and then later a frame cottage was built with more rooms.

Mrs. Duncan managed the hotel until her death in 1900, when Mr. Duncan and his daughter took over the management. The daughter, Gertrude, married E. H. Rhead, Jr., and on Dec. 1, 1904, Mr. and Mrs. Rhead leased the hotel from Mr. Duncan and began operating it. They made further expansions during 1905, improving the previous additions and adding another seven rooms, storerooms and linen closet. The building was subsequently torn down and the Turner Motel and Cafe now occupies the site.

Tourism has resulted in the establishment of 13 hotels or motels in Heber. These businesses, their addresses and proprietors are as follows: Hilton Motel, 516 N Main, D. L. Hilton; El Rancho, 488 N. Main, Forest Hancock; Heber Motel and Cafe, 230 N Main, Ben Sumbloom; Hi-Way Hotel-Motel, 167 N. Main, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Mawhinney; Turner Cafe and Motel, 190 N. Main, Gordon Mendenhall; Aloma Motel, 90 N. Main, Mrs. Alice Ashton; Ken Lona Motel, 123 S. Main, Kenneth Durrant; Town Motel & Service Station, 137 S. Main, Ray Smith; Hi-Way Motel, 135 S. Main, Wilbur Mawhinney; Beautiful Heber Valley Motel 587 S. Main, Camille Miller; Mac's Motel, 670 S. Main, T. K. McNaughton; Wasatch Motel, 875 S. Main, Leon Ritchie; and Hub Cafe and Motel, junction of Highways 40 and 189, Wesley Walters.

For travelers as well as townspeople, Heber also has five restaurants and several drive-in eating establishments.

RETAIL MERCHANDISING

Retail stores were at first unsuccessful in Heber City because of the lack of money in the valley, the limited stocks and the great distances involved in bringing in merchandise.

J. Ross offered goods for sale in a cabin on Jessie Bond's lot in Heber, and was followed by Snyder and Company from Wanship who used William Davidson's cabin. William Jennings took over the trade when Snyder and Co. withdrew and John Witt began a merchandising venture. All these attempts were made within a three-year period and failed.

In December of 1867 Abram Hatch, a successful merchant from Lehi, came to the valley as the first bishop of the new Heber Ward. He brought with him his inventory from Lehi and set up a store in his home, located on Main Street and First North. Mrs. Hatch and a son, Joseph, operated the store until 1882 when a new building was erected at Main and Center Streets and the store was organized as A. Hatch and Company. Joseph Hatch became manager and served for many years.

This new business venture benefited from the flow of money into the valley through John Witt's oat contract with the stagecoach line, and proved to be the first permanent successful business firm in the valley.

The chief competitor to A. Hatch and Company came into being as a result of railroad activity in Utah in 1868-69. Mark Jeffs, a convert to the Church from England, worked on the railroad crews that built the lines in Utah and successfully saved \$70.

He invested this money in merchandise in Salt Lake and came to Heber where he opened a store in a log cabin on Main Street. He measured calico on a bed and wrapped it on a chair. Scales were kept on a window ledge. Through sound business judgment, Mr. Jeffs was able to expand his business into a building one block west of Main Street